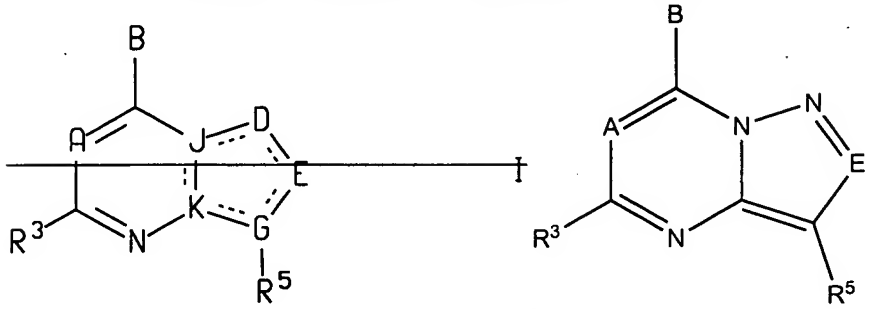
IN THE CLAIMS

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

the dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

A is nitrogen or CH, or CCH_3

B is [[~~NR^1R^2;~~]] $-CR^1R^2R^{10}$ $-C(=CR^2R^{11})R^1$, $-NHCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-OCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-SCR^1R^2R^{10}$, $-CR^2R^{10}NHR^1$, $-CR^2R^{10}OR^1$, $-CR^2R^{10}SR^1$ or $-COR^2$;

~~J and K are each independently~~ is ~~nitrogen; or carbon and both J and K are not nitrogens;~~

~~D and E are each selected, independently, from nitrogen;, CR^4, C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen, CR^4R^6 and NR^8;~~

E is selected from CR^4, C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen, CR^4R^6 and NR^8;

G is [[~~nitrogen or~~]] carbon;

~~the ring containing D, E, G, K, and J in formula I may be a saturated or unsaturated 5-membered ring and may optionally contain one or two double bonds and may optionally contain from one to three heteroatoms in the ring and may optionally have one or two C=O or C=S groups;~~

R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), CF_3, -C(=O)O-(C_1-C_4alkyl), -OC(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -NHCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CONH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CON(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CN, $-NO_2$, -SO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2$(C_1-C_4 alkyl), $-SO_2$NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and $-SO_2$N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), wherein each of the C_1-C_4 alkyl groups in the foregoing R^1 groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds;

R^2 is C_1-C_{12} alkyl which may optionally contain from one to three double or triple bonds, aryl or (C_1-C_4 alkylene)aryl, wherein said aryl and the aryl moiety of said (C_1-C_4 alkylene)aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolopyridyl, oxazolyl and benzoxazolyl; C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or (C_1-C_6 alkylene)(C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl), wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl and the 5 to 8 membered cycloalkyl moieties of said (C_1-C_6 alkylene)(C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl) may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^2 wherein Z^2 is selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl and C_1-C_4 alkanoyl, and wherein each of the foregoing R^2 groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, hydroxy and C_1-C_4 alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, -OC(=O)(C_1-C_6 alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_6 alkyl), amino, -NH(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)-CO-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -NHCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CONH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CON(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -SH, -CN, -NO_2, -SO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl) and -SO_2N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl);

-NR^1R^2 or $CR^1R^2R^{10}$ may form a saturated 3 to 8 membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain from one to three double bonds and wherein one or two of the ring carbon atoms of such 5 to 8 membered rings may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ^3 wherein Z^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl or C_1-C_4 alkanoyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo, (C_1-C_2 alkylene)-O-(C_1-C_2 alkyl), (C_1-C_2 alkylene)-OH, or -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl);

each R^4 is, independently, hydrogen, (C_1-C_6 alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_2 alkylene)-OH, CF_3, CH_2SCH_3, nitro, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)H or -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4alkyl);

R^6 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R^8 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^5 is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl and wherein each of the foregoing R^5 groups is substituted with from one to four substituents R^{13} wherein one to three of said substituents may be selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, C_1-C_6 alkyl

and -O(C_1-C_6 alkyl) and one of said substituents may be selected from bromo, iodo, formyl, OH, (C_1-C_4 alkylene)-OH, (C_1-C_4alkylene)-O-(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -CN, -CF_3, -NO_2, -NH_2, -NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_6 alkyl), -OCO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), (C_1-C_4 alkylene)-O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_6 alkyl), (C_1-C_4 alkylene)-S-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -COOH, -SO_2NH(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2N(C_1-C_2 alkyl)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -SO_2NH_2, -NHSO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_6 alkyl) and -SO_2(C_1-C_6 alkyl), and wherein each of the C_1-C_4 alkyl and C_1-C_6 alkyl moieties in the foregoing R^5 groups may optionally have one or two double bonds;

R^7 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, [[~~halo (e.g.,~~]] chloro, fluoro, iodo, [[~~or~~]] bromo [[~~)~~]] , hydroxy, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -OCF_3, -CF_3, -CH_2OH or -CH_2O(C_1-C_2 alkyl);

R^{10} is [[~~hydrogen~~]], hydroxy, methoxy or fluoro;

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl.[[~~; and~~]]

~~with the proviso that: (a) when both J and K are carbons and D is CR^4 and E is nitrogen, then G can not be nitrogen; (b) when both J and K are carbons and D and G are nitrogens, then E can not be CR^4 or C=O or C=S; (c) when both J and K are carbons and D and E are carbons, then G can not be nitrogen; (d) when G is carbon, it must be double banded to E; and (e) in the ring containing J, K, D, E and G, there can not be two double bonds adjacent to each other;~~

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds.

10. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 9wherein A is CH, J and K are carbon and D, E, and G are nitrogen.

11. (Currently Amended) [[~~Compounds~~]] A compound according to claim 9 wherein ~~J and D are nitrogen, and K and G are carbon, and~~ E is CH, CCH_3 or CC_2H_5.

12-17. (Cancelled)

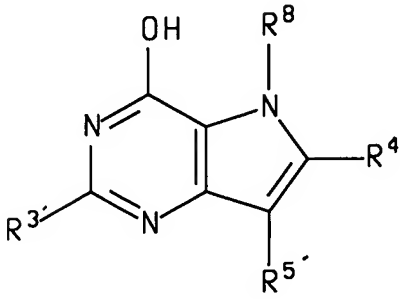
18. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim 9.

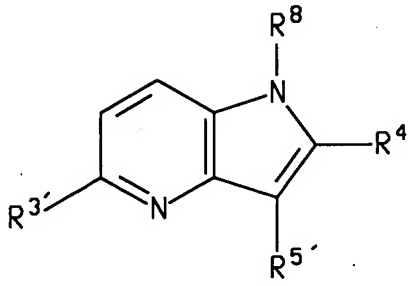
19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising a CRH binding

protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim [[1]] 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

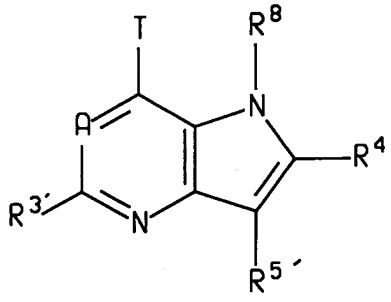
20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula





or



wherein R^3N is C_1-C_4 alkyl, R^7N is hydrogen, methyl, chloro, bromo, -COOH or -COO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), T is chloro, bromo, iodo or triflate, R^8 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl and R^4 is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6 alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_2 alkylene)-OH, CF_3, CH_2SCH_3, nitro, -O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -N(C_1-C_4 alkyl)(C_1-C_2 alkyl), -S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -CO(C_1-C_4 alkyl), -C(=O)H or -C(=O)O(C_1-C_4alkyl);

23. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim [[1]] 9 wherein said compound is:

~~7-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;~~

~~[2,5-Dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine;~~

~~(1-Ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-amine;~~

~~7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine;~~

~~[2,5-Dimethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-ethyl-propyl-amine;~~

[6-Bromo-5-bromomethyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-amine;

(1-Ethyl-propyl)-[5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-amine;

[6-Bromo-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridin-7-yl]-(1-ethyl-propyl)-methyl-amine;

7-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-5-methyl-3-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-3H-[1,2,3]triazolo[4,5-b]pyridine;

4-(1-Ethyl-propoxy)-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

(±)-2,5-Dimethyl-4-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(S)-(tetrahydro-furan-3-yloxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo-[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

2,5-Dimethyl-4-(1-propyl-butoxy)-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine; or

4-sec-Butylsulfanyl-2,5-dimethyl-7-(2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-5H-pyrrolo[3,2-d]pyrimidine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of such compound.